

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 266910
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 266910

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM AMMAN NOV 08:

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 8205

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PORG, PBOR, XF

SUBJECT: KING'S VISITS

1. AS YOU KNOW KING SAW ASAD LAST WEEK, AS HE TOLD US HE WOULD. LATER HE WENT TO RIYADH AND THEN TO CAIRO. HIS REQUEST TO SEE KHALID AND SADAT TOGETHER IN SAUDI ARABIA WAS REBUFFED. UNEXPECTEDLY, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (CABINET WAS LEFT WAITING AT THE AIRPORT) HE OVERFLEW AMMAN AND WENT DIRECTLY FROM CAIRO TO DAMASCUS. HE RETURNED TO AMMAN LATE EVENING NOVEMBER 8.

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2. I WAS NOT IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON HIS ASAD VISIT LAST WEEK. WE UNDERSTAND HIS MEETINGS WERE TETE-A-TETE. FROM WHAT LITTLE HE HAS VOUCHSAFED TO HIS CLOSE COLLEAGUES, MEETINGS WERE TOUGH, BUT HUSSEIN WAS SATISFIED ENOUGH TO CONTINUE HIS ROUNDS. IDEA OF A SUMMIT OF CONFRONTATION STATES APPEARS TO BE ONE WAY IN WHICH HE HOPES TO BRING SADAT AND ASAD CLOSER TOGETHER ON IDEAS IN PRESIDENT'S

LAST LETTER. SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD BIN FEISAL
WAS ALSO IN DAMASCUS YESTERDAY AND REPORTEDLY MET WITH
HUSSEIN AND ASAD. AT MOMENT IT SEEMS KING IS ONLY ARAB
LEADER WHO CAN, WITHOUT LOSS OF FACE OR PRESTIGE, SHUTTLE
AMONG THE OTHERS (ESPECIALLY SYRIA AND EGYPT) IN THE KIND OF
EFFORT WHICH IS NEEDED TO BRING THEM CLOSER TOGETHER.
I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH KING
AT SUITABLY DECENT HOUR (FOR HIM) TO GET HIS VIEWS AND
REACTIONS FOR YOU AND WILL REPORT WHEN I HAVE DONE SO.
PICKERING UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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